



Biological Laboratories
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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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Dear Joshua

A possible source of the notion that Mendelism is connected with numerology is the following passage in Hugo Iltis's Life of Mendel, translated by Eden and Cedar Paul (New York: Norton, 1932) p.177:

Many of Mendel's auditors must have been repelled by the strange linking of botany with mathematics, which may have reminded some of the less expert among them of the mystical numbers of the Pythagoreans, or of the natural philosophy of the schools of Schelling and Oken which had been fashionable some half century before to the detriment both of science and of philosophy.

I have delayed my reply to you because I am under the impression that a statement similar to the above occurs in another of Iltis's publications, but I have not succeeded in finding it. If I do, I will send you the reference.

I was interested and amused by your account of your experience and your friend's in locating long-lost individuals by looking in the telephone directory.

I take pleasure in enclosing two reprints.

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Sincerely

Alex
Alexander Weinstein

Adel Hanson

Mindel